



# Confessing the Truth

by Pastor Glenn Huebel

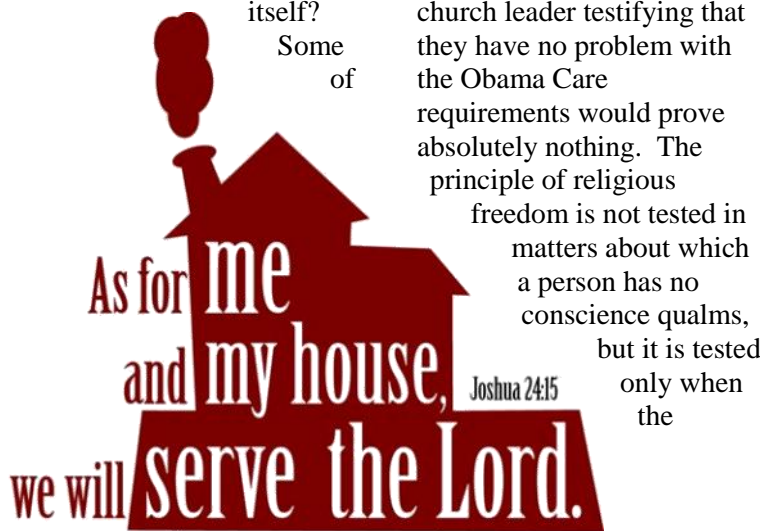
Hold on tight. Our world is changing. Recent efforts to impose decisions and actions upon religious organizations that are contrary to conscience is more than a little troubling. We can be proud of our LCMS President, Rev. Matthew Harrison, for his bold and articulate defense of religious liberty before a congressional committee this past week. (Find video of this testimony at [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org)). He and other religious leaders representing various Christian and Jewish bodies decried the attempt of the federal government to require religious institutions to provide insurance policies to all workers offering free birth control, including the morning after pill which is abortive. Can the Federal government require religions to act against their own doctrines, against conscience

the members of the congressional committee and most of the media vehemently argue that women should have been represented on the panel of religious leaders, or even that a position against birth control and/or abortion is misguided and should be changed. Those kind of arguments completely miss the point at issue and cause greater anxiety in the Church. The issue is NOT whether the doctrines and practices of a particular religion represent majority opinion of the nation or unanimous opinion of all religions. The issue is certainly not whether government officials agree with the doctrine. The issue is whether government can impose support of behavior that is contrary to the public doctrine and morality of a religious institution. A pro-abortion priestess or liberal church leader testifying that they have no problem with the Obama Care requirements would prove absolutely nothing. The principle of religious

conscience is violated. Ask the priestess and liberal church leader whether the government has the right to require their churches to buy cigarettes for their workers or to supplement their workers' purchase of gas-guzzling SUVs. Ask agnostics and atheists if they would be comfortable giving the government such power if a "right wing religious zealot" was elected President. The Jewish Rabbi on the panel acknowledged that he has no moral problem with birth control or abortion, but he fully understood the principle at stake here. He fully realized that the next imposition of government might well require his own religion to sacrifice conscience. Those who might argue that the government would never apply this power in ways that might violate their own consciences are quite naïve about human nature and dreadfully ignorant of history. German Lutheran pastor Martin Niemoeller wrote some famous words about the danger of remaining morally indifferent to the violation of the rights of others:

*First they came for the communists, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a communist. Then they came*

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*That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. —John 20:31*

## Biology, cont.

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*for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Jew.*

*Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak out for me.*

The media makes this out to be a narrow Roman Catholic issue. It is not! We may well be on the brink of another spiritual dark age in which confessing and practicing truth will cost us dearly. We must certainly begin thinking through scenarios that not so long ago seemed highly unlikely, if not impossible. If government has the right to obligate

us, as a religious institution, to support things we consider to be immoral, how long will it be before we are required to hire teachers without discriminating against "sexual orientation"? How long will it be before government can require churches to ordain women into the pastoral office? What will we do if and when this day comes? **This would be a good time for all our members to write their congressmen.**

Scripture has a great deal to say about how to respond when government goes beyond its God-given authority. We might want to

take these passages out and dust them off a bit. Holding fast to truth has consequences.

We give thanks to God that Jesus reigns over all creatures in heaven and on earth and that He exercises His power in behalf of the Church. He who washed us and made us clean by His own blood will not forsake His people in times of trial. Let us continue to pray earnestly to the reigning Lord for our nation and those who lead, and for our Church in these difficult days.

Blessings,  
Pastor Huebel

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## Welcome the Simek Family to Messiah by Stephanie Gutierrez

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Frank and Shirleen Simek recently joined Messiah after moving from Millstade, Illinois. Frank and Shirleen have been Missouri Synod Lutherans for many years. The Simeks have three sons, Stan, Frank, and Brett.

The past twelve months have been extraordinarily busy for the Simeks. Although Frank retired from Anheuser Busch in December, he was approached by Frac Tech with a job offer. Frank decided to go back to work and moved to Fort Worth in May. Shirleen followed shortly after selling their home.

Amazingly, all three sons will have been married within a twelve month span as Stan takes his wedding vows in June. Also, all boys will have been married in Millstade in their home church. Frank, the middle son, is a professional soccer player in

England, and Brett entered the seminary in Fort Wayne this year. Brett will preach his first sermon on March 11, and Shirleen and Frank will travel back to Millstade to attend the service.

Frank and Shirleen have lived in Illinois most of their married lives. For six years they were able to live in England in Cobham Surrey outside of London while Frank worked for Anheuser Busch. This was a special time for their family as they were able to travel all over Europe.

Shirleen has been very busy lately with parties and showers, but she hopes to get involved as soon as the weddings come to a close! Please welcome Frank and Shirleen Simek to Messiah.

**NOW ENROLLING**  
**2 YRS. - 8TH GRADE**

**WWW.ML(ATEXAS).ORG**

**2 YRS. - PRE-K: 817-431-6139**  
**GRADES K-8: 817-431-5486**



## SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

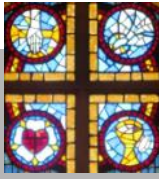
**Palm Sunday, April 1, 8:00 a.m. —Congregational Procession, beginning outside**  
**10:45 a.m. —Children's Processional. (Children meet in library at 10:30am.)**

**Maundy Thursday, April 5, 7:30 p.m. —Divine Service with Communion**

**Good Friday, April 6, 7:30 p.m. —Service of Darkness (Tenebrae)**

**Holy Saturday, April 7, 8:00 a.m. —Prayer Vigil begins (until 7:00 p.m.)**  
**7:30 p.m. —Service of Confession and Absolution**

**Easter Sunday, April 8, 6:30 a.m. —Easter Sunrise with Communion**  
**8:00 a.m. —Easter Breakfast (freewill offering taken)**  
**9:30 a.m. —Sunday School**  
**10:45 a.m. —Divine Service with Communion**



## Messiah Lutheran Church & School

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

1308 Whitley Rd. Keller, TX 76248

Church Office: (817) 431-2345

Early Childhood Center: (817) 431-6139

Classical Academy (K-8): (817) 431-5486

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Glenn Huebel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dennis Kitzmann, Assistant Pastor

Mrs. Natalie Anderson, Principal, Classical Academy

Mrs. Alison Smith, Principal, Early Childhood Center

Mrs. Vicki Main, Kantor

Mr. Joseph Sustrik, Financial Director

[www.messiahkeller.org](http://www.messiahkeller.org)



## Youth News

*I will say of my Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust." —Psalm 91:2*

During Sunday School, the youth has been reading and focusing on selected books from the Bible such as Psalms and Job. We find that we can relate to the timeless advice and parables given in the Word and find it helpful to carefully look over Scriptural texts through group discussions and lesson plans. These verses often provide new insights and reinforcement of our spiritual priorities.



This month, we held some fun gatherings. Here are some pictures to share including the bowling alley trip including the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmands and the sock-hop held this past Saturday.

### Upcoming Events in March:

- 7<sup>th</sup> Lenten Dinner (sponsored by youth)
- 11<sup>th</sup> Braille Workshop
- 21<sup>st</sup> Lenten Dinner (sponsored by youth)
- 24<sup>th</sup> Higher Things at Redeemer in Dallas
- 25<sup>th</sup> Deposit for Retreat Due
- 31<sup>st</sup> Church Spring Cleaning

